

REMARKS

The present Amendment After Final Action is made in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.116. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6-22, 24 and 25 will be pending in the application.

Claims 11-16, and 25 are allowable. Claim 3 is cancelled. Independent claims 1, 17 and 21 are amended to include certain limitations of the allowed claim 11. Specifically, each of the independent claims 1, 17, 21 is amended to include the additional limitation that the block includes a U-shaped member with two pads engageable with the distal end of the femur, and that the rod extends between the two pads. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 17, 21 as amended are patentable over Katz (6,077,270) in view of Axelson, Jr. et al (6,558,391) and further in view of D'Antonio (5,810,831), for the same reason that claim 11 is allowable over these patents.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 17, 21, and their dependent claims 2, 6-10, 18-20, 22, and 24 are now in condition for allowance. Claim 21 was also amended to provide antecedent basis for the element "base", as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, the objection to claim 21 and its dependent claims 22 and 24 is now accommodated.

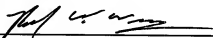
Applicants respectfully submit that upon entry of this amendment the application would be in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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